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WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1972

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WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

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WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1972 - 73

Chairman	-	Mr. D. Harris
Vice-Chairman	-	Mr. F. Sawbridge
Members	-	Mr. G. Bobbin
	-	Mrs.M. Cooper
	-	Mr. L. Cox
	-	Mrs.M. Kitson
	-	Mr. W. Mack
	-	Mrs.D. Pemberton
	-	Mr. C. Ramm
	-	Mrs.S. Rands
	-	Mr. L. Rowley
	-	Mr. G. Walker

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1972

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report for 1972. The report of the Public Health Inspector is included.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

L.G.POOLE, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.,D.T.M. & H.
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I

GENERAL STATISTICS

(a) Area :- The Urban District covers 2,670 acres.

(b) Population :- The Estimated Mid-Year Home Population for the District for 1972 was 2,340.

Year	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Estimated Mid-Year Population	2450	2450	2450	2450	2450	2450	2490	2480	2310	2340

The total number of deaths was 37; the number of live births 22.

(c) The Rateable Value of the District was £ 90,623

(d) The Product of the Penny Rate was £ 818.31

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The Registrar General's figure for live births and stillbirths in the District for 1972 was 22 and 1 respectively.

Table showing the sex of legitimate and illegitimate live births (the figures in brackets are corresponding numbers for 1971)

Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	11 (9)	7 (10)	18 (19)
Illegitimate	2 (1)	2 (1)	4 (2)
Totals	13 (10)	9 (11)	22 (21)

Live Birth Rate

The crude rate was 9.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population compared with a rate of 9.1 in 1971. The corrected birth rate (using a comparability factor of 1.21) was 11.4 per 1,000 of the population, compared with a rate of 14.8 for England and Wales, and 15.5 for the Administrative County of Norfolk.

Illegitimate Births

There were four illegitimate births. The percentage of illegitimate live births to the total live births for 1972 was 18, compared with 10% in 1971.

Still Births

There was one stillbirth in 1972, giving a stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths of 43. The rate for England and Wales was 12. for 1972, and for the Administrative County of Norfolk 12.0.

Infant Deaths

No infant under one year of age died in 1972.

Infant Mortality Rate

This is calculated as the total infant deaths per 1,000 live births, and for 1972 was zero. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1972 was 17.0, and for the Administrative County of Norfolk 16.1.

The Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate equals the deaths in legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, and for 1972 was zero.

The Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate equals the deaths in illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. This was zero in 1972.

The Neonatal Mortality Rate equals the deaths of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births. This was zero in 1972.

The Early Neonatal Mortality Rate equals the deaths of infants under one week of age per 1,000 live births. This was zero in 1972.

The Perinatal Mortality Rate is the combined stillbirths and deaths under one week of age per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. The rate for 1972 was 43.

Maternal Mortality Rate

No deaths occurred in 1972, therefore maternal mortality rate was zero.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Live Births	24	27	21	21	22
Live Birth Rate - Crude	9.8	10.8	8.5	9.1	9.4
Live Birth Rate - Corrected	11.17	12.3	9.7	10.4	11.4
Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	4.2	7	19	10	18
Still Births	3	0	0	0	1
Still Birth Rate	111.1	0	0	0	43
Total Still and Live Births	27	27	21	21	23
Infant Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate - Legitimate	0	0	0	0	0
" " " - Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	111	0	0	0	43
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Maternal Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0

Deaths from all causes

The Registrar General has recorded the following deaths tabled under the International Statistical Classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1966.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Age in Years 25-34	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia	M	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	3	-	1	-	2	-
	F	3	-	-	1	1	1
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	4	-	-	-	2	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	M	3	-	-	-	-	3
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Total All Causes	M	17	1	1	-	4	11
	F	20	-	-	2	4	14

Deaths from all causes - cont'd

There were 37 deaths in 1972 - 17 male and 20 female.

Heart Disease caused 12 deaths.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system caused 5 deaths.

If all deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, including vascular lesions of the nervous system, are combined, a figure of 19 deaths is reached. Thus 51% of all deaths was from these causes.

Cancer caused 8 deaths. One of these deaths was due to cancer of the lung or bronchus.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	-	15.8
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (using comparability factor of 0.70)	-	11.1
Corrected Death Rate for the Administrative County of Norfolk per 1,000 estimated population.	-	10.0
Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population.	-	12.1

The value of the Corrected Death Rate is that comparisons can be made between different areas of the country.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Deaths	29	29	19	38	37
Death Rate - Crude	11.8	11.6	7.7	16.5	15.8
Death Rate - Corrected	10.1	10.2	6.7	14.4	11.1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Nine cases of Measles were reported during the year.

Tuberculosis

No new case was reported.

The following table shows the number of cases in Wells on the Register at the end of 1972:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
No.on Register at 31/12/72	3	1	-	-	3	1

B.C.G. Vaccination

Immunisation against tuberculosis is offered by the County Council to boys and girls who are in their fourteenth year of age. The injection is given at school.

The following table gives more information of B.C.G. vaccination in the District in 1972.

School	Tested	Read	Positive	Negative	Vaccinated
Alderman Peel,Wells	82	78	3	75	75

Rubella Immunisation

Immunisation against German Measles is offered by the County Council to girls who are in their fourteenth year of age. The girls immunised in the District numbered 39.

Measles Vaccination

Immunisation against measles is offered by the County Council.

A table showing measles immunisation by year of birth:-

	Total
Born 1972	-
" 1971	17
" 1970	3
" 1969	5
" 1965 - 68	7
Others under age 16 years	-
Total	32

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the District in 1972. Immunisation is offered by the County Council.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised against poliomyelitis during 1972 in Wells Urban District.

Age Groups	Total
Children born in 1972	-
Children born in 1971	18
Children born in 1970	4
Children born in 1969	-
Children born 1965 - 1968	-
Others under age 16	-
Total Primary Courses completed	22
Re-inforcing doses (all ages)	81

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

There were no cases under this heading notified in the District.

The following table gives more information about immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in Wells Urban District in 1972.

		Total
Triple	Initial immunisation	22
	Booster injection	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus	Initial immunisation	-
	Booster injection	23
Diphtheria	Initial immunisation	-
	Booster injection	-
Tetanus	Initial immunisation	-
	Booster injection	60

I would like to thank the members of the Urban District Council and of the Health Office without whose help this report would not have been produced, and also the members of the Public Health Committee and the Council for their patience and continued support.

SECTION III

Contributed by the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTIONS

The following inspections were carried out during the year:

Housing	42
Building Regulations and Grants	783
Slaughter Houses	291
Shops	104
Pests Acts	270
Factories and Workshops	8
Miscellaneous	217

HOUSING

The area bounded by Dogger Lane, Freeman Street and Theatre Road, which was previously described as a clearance area, is now receiving some attention. Seven of the cottages in Chapel Yard have been subject to application for Improvement Grant, one new bungalow has been completed and occupied and three dwellings are being erected in Blackhorse Yard. In Brigg Square some improvement to two cottages has occurred and they have become available for holiday cottages. Two further cottages are to be erected but the existing cottages Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 Brigg Square still require substantial improvement. There are no proposals for dealing with the cottages in Mindhams Yard or the industrial/commercial buildings in the area, and the matter is complicated further because a number of the buildings are listed as of Historical and Architectural importance. It is, therefore, not possible to forecast when satisfactory housing will exist within the whole of this area.

Individual Unfit Houses

The following table shows action taken under Section 14, et.seq. of the Housing Act,1957.

Representations Received	5
Representations outstanding at 1.1.72	1
Closing Orders Made	0
Closing Orders Revoked	0
Demolition Orders Made	0
Demolition Orders Rescinded	0
Undertakings Accepted	5
Undertakings Cancelled	1
Remaining to be determined	1
Houses Demolished	0

Improvements to Privately Owned Houses

Standard Grants and Improvement Grants have been made as shown in the following tables, showing a comparison with 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971:

STANDARD GRANTS

	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Value of Grants Approved	No.of Grants Paid	Value of Grants Paid
1965	10	8	£1000.00		£ 930.25
1966	12	11	£1588.48		£1098.16
1967	11	10	£1195.00		£1420.07
1968	8	8	£1200.00		£1266.30
1969	6	5	£ 780.00		£1396.44
1970	1	1	£ 150.00		£ 320.00
1971	13	12	£2055.00	9	£1282.86
1972	8	9	£1518.50	9	£1688.50

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS
HOUSING ACT, 1969

	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Value of Grants Approved	No.of Grants Paid	Value of Grants Paid
1969	6	1	£ 786.91	-	-
1970	8	12	£11,070.45	-	£1596.75
1971	9	6	£ 4,906.14	9	£7570.10
1972	24	23	£21,548.37	9	£6175.40

From the above tables it will be seen that an average value of grants paid in 1972 on nine Standard Grants and nine Improvement Grants, was £436.00, and in 1972 the average value of grants approved on nine Standard Grants and twenty-three Improvement Grants was £720.00.

Council House Building

During the year 31No. two bedroom houses at Neilsen Close were completed. Negotiations with the builders commenced for a further 15No. dwellings in 1972, but because of "yardstick" limitations it was impossible to come to an acceptable figure. However, in 1973, after pruning the specification, a contract figure was accepted in excess of the figure negotiated for the original dwellings by almost £10,000.00.

During the year the Council demolished and disposed of the 10No. Prefabricated Bungalows at Knitting Needle Lane and the site was cleared and prepared for the erection of new dwellings.

Council House Building - cont'd.

The Council sold 32No. houses to existing tenants, reducing the Council's stock of houses available for letting to:

1 Bedroom Type Dwellings	-	35
2 Bedroom Type Dwellings	-	157
3 Bedroom Type Dwellings	-	149
4 Bedroom Type Dwellings	-	10

Private Enterprise Building

During the year 38 new dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewage works has been kept operating in a reasonably satisfactory manner, and the Council's Consulting Engineers provided proposals for sludge drying, but because of refusal of consent to erect the building to house this equipment, the Council are still faced with serious problems of sludge disposal. In spite of considerable negotiations the County Planning Department still refuse the necessary consent to erect the sludge drying equipment building.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection system operated satisfactorily during the year and substantial improvements were achieved at the Council's refuse tip, the deposited new refuse being trenched and covered with previously deposited refuse to provide an area in which tree planting has taken place.

A system of Incentive Bonus was introduced for Refuse Collectors in May,1972 and has operated satisfactorily.

Civic Amenities Act

The Council continued its system of collecting bulky household refuse at the premises at which they arise, and as a result of pressure from a Member and the Department of the Environment, a "place" in Newgates Lane was provided for depositing household refuse. Since this "place" has been in use substantial quantities of trade refuse are deposited there, but it has been difficult to determine by whom and to this extent only, the "place" is being misused.

RODENT CONTROL

The visits and treatments of the Rodent Operator are summarised as follows:

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties (including near-by premises) inspected following notification	243	-
Number infested by (i) Rats	104	-
(ii) Mice	17	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	27	8
Number infested by (i) Rats	2	2
(ii) Mice	3	1

CARAVAN SITES

The Council-operated Caravan Site is generally satisfactory, but some improvements are still necessary in the water supply to the site and this matter has been subject to discussion with the Water Board.

Private Caravan Site

This is maintained at a reasonable standard and relatively free from complaints.

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

The following ships entered the port during the year:

Ships from		Arrivals at Wells		Departures ex Wells	
		Full	Empty	Full	Empty
Foreign Ports	1965	24	0	3	11
	1966	31	2	24	14
	1967	41	3	15	22
	1968	43	2	5	17
	1969	30	0	1	15
	1970	30	5	24	20
	1971	67	5	4	49
	1972	73	1	0	45
Home Ports	1965	2	5	2	15
	1966	1	26	11	11
	1967	1	22	16	14
	1968	0	12	12	23
	1969	0	0	0	14
	1970	1	13	0	5
	1971	3	2	3	21
	1972	14	1	4	40

The total figures for arrivals at the port from 1965 to 1972 are as follows:

1965	...	31
1966	...	60
1967	...	67
1968	...	57
1969	...	30
1970	...	49
1971	...	77
1972	...	89

The principal users of the port are Messrs.Favor Parker Ltd. The problem of dust emission continues during loading of vehicles, but negotiations are in hand to provide better off-loading and on-loading facilities with a reduction of dust emission. No serious defects were found in any of the ships entering the port and only two ships required new de-ratisation certificates.

MILK SUPPLY

Services Under the Food and Drugs Act,1955
Milk Supply - Brucella Abortus

No notifications of Brucella Abortus have been received, and no raw milk is sold within the district. Milk is processed at two factories outside the district and is delivered by two retailers and sold at a number of shop premises.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS,1960

Description of Premises	Number of Premises	Premises to which Reg.16 Applies	Premises complying with Reg.16	Premises to which Reg.19 applies	Premises complying with Reg.19
Grocers/Pharmacy/Greengrocers/Sweet meats.	23	23	23	23	23
Hotels	3	3	3	3	3
Cafes	10	10	10	10	10
Public Houses	6	6	6	6	6
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4	4
Bakers	4	4	4	4	4
Butchers	3	3	3	3	3
Whelkhouses/ Shellfish Processing	7	7	7	7	7

Mussel Lays, Wells Harbour

During the year 24No. samples of mussels were collected and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, with the following results:-

AS RAISED			READY FOR DESPATCH		
Unsatisfactory	Suspicious	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Suspicious	Satisfactory
2	1	5	3	2	11

It is too few a number of samples to be able to draw a firm conclusion and the process of sampling should be continued.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The following table shows the slaughtering carried out in the district for the period 1965 to 1972. All meat is inspected before leaving the slaughter premises.

	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Total
1965	351	18	306	743	-	1418
1966	355	23	208	771	-	1357
1967	420	29	823	802	-	2074
1968	349	33	656	742	27	1807
1969	385	39	382	776	32	1614
1970	463	46	380	932	22	1843
1971	441	38	476	941	10	1906
1972	373	26	493	1031	1	1924

Unsound Meat seized or surrendered
All diseases except for Tuberculosis

	Bullocks	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
Whole carcases Seized	2	1	3	1
Percentages	0.536	0.302	0.291	3.846
Carcases from which some part was condemned	30	4	53	1
Percentages	8.042	0.811	5.141	3.846

Tuberculosis Only

	Bullocks	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
Whole carcases Seized	-	-	-	-
Percentages	-	-	-	-
Carcases from which some part was condemned		-	1	-
Percentages	-	-	0.097	-

Cysticercus Bovis

	Bullocks	Sheep	Pigs
Whole carcases Seized	-	-	-
Percentages	-	-	-
Carcases from which some part was condemned	1	-	-
Percentages	0.268	-	-

Unsound Meat

The following were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:

Food	Parts	Weight	Cause of Unfitness
Bovine			
Lungs	2	9 lbs	Pneumonia
Livers	25	82 lbs	Abscesses/Distomatosis/ Necrosis
Skirt	2	3 lbs	Abscesses
Carcase Meat	4	512 lbs	Bruising/Prolapse/ Fracture
Whole Bovine	3	1060 lbs	Bruising/Pyaemia
Pigs			
Hearts	22	55 lbs	Pericarditis
Lungs	10	24 lbs	Pneumonia/Pleurisy
Plucks	10	28 lbs	Pneumonia/Pleurisy/ Adhesions
Udder	1	2 lbs	Milk
Scrotum	1	8 lbs	Rupture
Heads	6	60 lbs	Subimax/Abscesses/Calcified/T.B./Tuberculosis
Kidneys	2	2 lbs	Abscesses
Carcase Meat	3	95 lbs	Varicoseal
Whole Pigs	3	210 lbs	Peritonitis/Poorness
Sheep			
Whole Sheep	1	40 lbs	Retentive Cystitis
Other Foods			
Corned Beef	2	12 lbs	Loss of Vacuum/Perforation and Decomposition
Prepacked Bacon	2	10 lbs	Smoke Taint

FACTORIES ACT

Factories Acts,1937 to 1959

Annual Report for 1972 under Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act,1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No.on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	18	8	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out Workers' premises)	17	5	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - Nil

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT,1963

Registration and General Inspections

Classifications	No.of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	9	-
Retail Shops	-	37	13
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	1	2	2
Catering Premises	-	11	7
Fuel Storage Depots	-	3	3